

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 00197 012036Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 /162 W
----- 039774

P R 011700Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7525

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, UV

SUBJECT: VOLTAN CABINET AND PARTY CRISIS

REF: STATE 20537; OUAGA 161

1. ANTICIPATED CABINET CHANGE STILL IN FUTURE. TO
FILL IN FOR RESIGNING FONMIN CONOMBO AND MINHEALTH
BARRAUD, PRIME MINISTER GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO HAS
NAMED PUBLIC WORKS MIN LOMPO AS ACTING FONMIN AND
MINDEF TRAORE AS ACTING MINHEALTH. THIS IS LIKE
PROACTIVE FOLLOWED WHEN A MINISTER IS ABORAD AND
ANOTHER MINISTER IS NAMED TO ACT IN HIS STEAD. BOTH
LOMPO AND TRAORE ARE LOYAL TO PRIME MINISTER, AND
LOMPO HAS BEEN ON HUSTINGS RALLYING SUPPORT FOR HIM.

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PAGE 02 OUAGAD 00197 012036Z

2. UDV-RDA SEC-GEN JOSEPH OUEDRAOGO CALLED HASTY

MEETING OF 75-MEMBER "COMITE DIRECTEUR" OF PARTY JAN 23. MEETING, NOT RECOGNIZED BY GERARD, WAS ATTENDED BY ONLY 46 PRSONS, OF WHOM 43 SUPPORTED PARTY POLIT-BUREAU MOVE AGAINST GERARD. AT GERARD'S BEHEST, RIVAL MEETING OF COMITE DIRECTEUR (UNRECOGNIZED BY JOSEPH) WAS HELD JAN 24. MEETING, ATTENDED BY 45 PERSONS, DECLARED NO-CONFIDENCE RESOLUTION PASSED BY UDV-RDA POLITBUREAU TO BE NULL AND VOID. IT ALSO RENEWED ITS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN GERARD KANGO AND GRANTED HIM "FULL POWERS" TO RESOLVE CRISIS.

3. SINCE GERARD AND JOSEPH EACH CLAIM SUPPORT OF MAJORITY OF COMITE DIRECTEUR, WITH APPARENT GRAND TOTAL OF 91 OUT OF 75 MEMBERS INVOLVED, NET BALANCE OF SUPPORT IN PARTY COUNCILS IS UNCLEAR. GERARD IS FIGHTING BACK STRONGLY, BUT CRISIS NOT YET OVER. HOWEVER, AT THIS STAGE, UDV-RDA PARTY SEEMS HEADED TOWARD SPLIT.

4. ALTHOUGH RECENT EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF PARLIAMENT ENDED, JOSEPH HAS ANNOUNCED SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION TO QUESTION GOVERNMENT ON ITS USE DROUGHT AID FUNDS. WHILE SUCH AN ISSUE COULD BE DEVELOPED INTO BASIS FOR CENSURE ACTION, WE CONTINUE QUESTION WHETHER JOSEPH HAS ENOUGH VOTES TO GOVERTURN GERARD THIS WAY. DURING RECENT EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, PRIME IMINSTER SOUGHT POWER TO RULE BY DECREE IN MATTERS RELATED TO DROUGHT EMERGENCY. HE LOST BY 19-33 VOTE. HOWEVER, THOSE WHO WOULD ACCORD HIM SUCH POWER AT THIS TIME SHOULD BE HIS FIRM SUPPORTERS, AND 19 VOTES IS ALL HE NEEDS TO BLOCK A CENSURE VOTE IN THE 58-MEMBER PARLIAMENT.

5. WE CONTINUE FEEL THAT THIS KIND OF SQUABBLING AMONG POLITICIANS SETS THE STAGE FOR REASSERTION OF FULL MILITARY CONTROL OVER GOVERNMENT IN SOME FORM. FOR NOW, PRESIDENT LAMIZANA AND ARMY REMAIN ON SIDE-LINES, AS DO LABOR UNIONS. HOWEVER, AT SOME POINT PRESIDENT AND/OR ARMY ARE LIKELY DECIDE THAT TIME HAS COME FOR THEM TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT.

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PAGE 03 OUAGAD 00197 012036Z

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Message Attributes

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